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JC586 U.S. PTO
09/6/6076
07/13/00

Date: July 13, 2000

Attorney Docket No. NIT-207

To: Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir: Transmitted herewith for filing is the patent application of:

Inventor: M. ISHIBASHI et al (SEE ATTACHED LIST)

For:
PROBE FOR SCANNING PROBE LITHOGRAPHY
AND MAKING METHOD THEREOF

Enclosed are:



9 Sheets of Drawings



This application is being filed without an executed Declaration.



Priority is claimed from Japanese Application No. 11-241330
filed August 27, 1999. ☒ A certified copy is attached herewith.



Copies of the disclosure documents listed on the attached PTO 1449 form and
☒ discussed in the specification or ☒ attached Information Disclosure Statement.



A verified statement to establish small entity status under 37 CFR 1.9 and 1.27.



Specification: Abstract ☒, Description 26 pages; and 10 claim(s).



Preliminary Amendment.



Executed Declaration.

The filing fee is calculated as shown below:

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For:	No. Filed	No. Extra
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Total Claims	10 - 20 = *	0
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A check in the amount of \$ 690.00 is enclosed for the filing fee.



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Respectfully Submitted,

By:

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Title of the Invention

PROBE FOR SCANNING PROBE LITHOGRAPHY AND MAKING METHOD THEREOF

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SPECIFICATION

TITLE OF THE INVENTION

5 PROBE FOR SCANNING PROBE LITHOGRAPHY AND MAKING METHOD
THEREOF

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

10 The present invention relates to a probe for
scanning probe lithography and a making method thereof.

As an integration scale of semiconductor
devices and a density level of recording media have
increased, it has been required to provide an advanced
15 technique for microstructure fabrication thereof. At
present, in photolithography process for production of
common semiconductor devices, a minimum fabrication
dimension is limited to approximately 100 nm due to
characteristics of an optical wavelength of a light
20 source and a material of a lens used in
photolithography equipment. Further, in laser process
for production of masters of recording media, a minimum
fabrication dimension is approximately 200 nm, which
might cause a decrease in margin of resolution.

25 In recent years, particular attention has been
focused upon a microstructure fabrication technique
based on scanning probe microscopy to be employed in
lieu of the conventional art mentioned above, e.g.,

this technique is found in Journal of Vacuum Science Technology B4 (1986), pp. 86 - 88, reported by M. A. McCord et al. In the microstructure fabrication technique based on scanning probe microscopy, a voltage is applied between a probe and a substrate for forming microstructure patterns, and extremely high resolution is attainable to allow atomic-level or nanostructure fabrication in principle. In Journal of Vacuum Science Technology B6 (1988), pp. 293 - 296, reported by M. A. McCord et al., and in Applied Physics Letter 61 (1992) pp. 2293 - 2295, reported by A. Majumdar et al., there is disclosed a microfabrication process method of scanning probe lithography in which patterns are formed using a resist film as in conventional lithography. Since a well-established pattern transfer method for transferring patterns from a resist film to a substrate, which has been developed for the conventional lithography, is applicable to the scanning probe lithography, it is expected that the scanning probe lithography will find widespread use in practice of the next generation of microfabrication. In particular, a scanning probe lithography technique in which a micro-cantilever type of probe designed for an atomic force microscope is used and the exposure is controlled by varying a voltage for keeping a constant current flowing, as proposed by K. Wilder et al. in Journal of Vacuum Science Technology B15 (1997), pp. 1811 - 1817, has received considerable attention because of its

advantageous controllability and reproducibility of uniform pattern linewidths.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

5 In the above-mentioned scanning probe lithography technique, though high resolution can be attained, the useful life of the probe is rather short, i.e., it is not allowed to draw a large number of microstructure patterns with a single probe. More specifically, in the known scanning probe lithography 10 technique, the probe for atomic force microscopy which is coated with a metallic material such as gold, reported by A. Majumdar et al. in Applied Physics Letter 61 (1992), pp. 2293 - 2295, or titanium is used. 15 Therefore, in practice of lithographic patterning, the tip of the probe is likely to be deformed or the metallic material coated thereon is apt to be peeled off due to wear or collision with an obstacle, not permitting the drawing of a large number of 20 microstructure patterns.

 In view of the foregoing, it is an object of the present invention to provide a probe for scanning probe lithography which is capable of drawing a large number of microstructure patterns and a method of 25 making the same.

 In accomplishing this object of the present invention and according to one aspect thereof, there is provided a probe for scanning probe lithography, in

embodiment of a probe for scanning probe lithography according to the present invention;

FIGS. 2(a) to 2(h) are schematic diagrams showing a procedure for making a lithographic scanning probe according to the present invention;

FIGS. 3(a) and 3(b) are plan views of two examples of spring sections for the lithographic scanning probe in FIG 2(h), as seen from a surface to be patterned;

FIG. 4(a) is a plan view of a spring section and a tip part having a hemispherical shape in another preferred embodiment of a lithographic scanning probe according to the present invention, as seen from a surface to be patterned;

FIG. 4(b) is a sectional view taken on line A-A of FIG. 4(a);

FIG. 5(a) is a plan view of a tip part with a conductor having a different structure in another preferred embodiment of a lithographic scanning probe according to the present invention, as seen from a surface to be patterned;

FIG. 5(b) is a sectional view taken on line A-A of FIG. 5(a);

FIG. 5(c) is a sectional view taken on line B-B of FIG. 5(a);

FIG. 6 is a conceptual scheme for explaining advantageous effects of the preferred embodiment of the lithographic scanning probe shown in FIG. 5;

FIG. 7(a) is a plan view of a tip part having a different structure in another preferred embodiment of a lithographic scanning probe according to the present invention, as seen from a surface to be patterned;

5 FIG. 7(b) is a sectional view taken on line A-A of FIG. 7(a);

FIG. 7(c) is a sectional view taken on line B-B of FIG. 7(a);

10 FIGS. 8(a) to 8(h) are schematic diagrams showing another procedure for making a lithographic scanning probe according to the present invention;

15 FIG. 9(a) is a plan view of a tip part and a spring section having a different structure in another preferred embodiment of a lithographic scanning probe according to the present invention, as seen from a surface to be patterned;

FIG. 9(b) is a sectional view taken on line A-A of FIG. 9;

20 FIG. 9(c) is an enlarged view of the tip part of the lithographic scanning probe shown in FIG. 9(b);

FIG. 10 is a conceptual scheme for explaining advantageous effects of the preferred embodiment of the lithographic scanning probe shown in FIG. 9;

25 FIG. 11 is a schematic diagram showing a cross section of a lithographic scanning probe having a conductive layer formed of a carbon nanotube material according to the present invention; and

FIGS. 12(a) to 12(c) are schematic diagrams

showing a procedure for making a lithographic scanning probe shown in FIG. 11.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

5 With reference to FIGS. 1(a) and 1(b), the outline of a probe for scanning probe lithography according to the present invention is described below.

Referring to FIG. 1(a), there is shown a sectional view for explaining a patterning operation using a lithographic scanning probe in a preferred embodiment of the present invention. In a scanning probe lithography system, such as is found in Japan Journal of Applied Physics 37 (1998), pp. 1565 - 1569, reported by M. Ishibashi et al., a lithographic scanning probe 1 of the present invention is usable for drawing patterns on a resist film 7 coated on a substrate 6. The lithographic scanning probe 1 comprises a tip part 2 and a spring section 3. The tip part 2 includes a conductor 4 (indicated as a shaded part in FIG. 1(a)) and an insulator 5, the tip apex part of the conductor 4 is formed in a fine needle shape which has a substantially uniform cross-sectional configuration with respect to the resist film 7 to be patterned, and the insulator 5 is formed to cover the periphery of the tip apex part of the conductor 4. That is to say, in a fashion analogous to a lead in a pencil, the conductor 4 has the same thickness in the longitudinal direction thereof, and the periphery of

systems such as those proposed in Journal of Vacuum
Science Technology B15 (1997), pp. 1811 - 1817,
reported by K. Wilder et al., Japan Journal of Applied
Physics 37 (1998), pp. 1565 - 1569, reported by M.
5 Ishibashi et al., and Japanese Unexamined Patent
Publication No. 11 (1999) - 73906.

As to fabrication of a micro-cantilever type of
probe for atomic force microscopy, there are known a
micro-casting method, reported by T. R. Albrecht et al.
10 in Journal of Vacuum Science Technology A8 (1990), pp.
3386 - 3396), an isotropic reactive ion etching method,
a lift-off - evaporation combination method, etc. In
the present preferred embodiment, a lithographic
scanning probe is fabricated utilizing the micro-
15 casting method. In the micro-casting method, a mold
for a probe is formed on a silicon substrate, films are
layered, and then the silicon substrate used for
molding is dissolved to attain a probe.

Referring to FIGS. 2(a) to 2(h), there are
20 shown schematic diagrams indicating process steps for
making a lithographic scanning probe in the present
preferred embodiment. On the left side of FIG. 2,
sectional views of structures at respective process
steps are shown. On the right side thereof, plan views
25 are shown in FIGS. 2(a) to 2(g), and a bottom view is
shown in FIG. 2(h).

On a 0.4mm-thick silicon substrate 21 having a
crystal orientation (100), a hard-mask layer 22 of

silicon dioxide having a thickness of 100 nm is formed, and then a hole pattern of 4000 nm square is made on the hard-mask layer 22 by photolithography and reactive ion etching (FIG. 2(a)).

5 Using the hard-mask layer 22 thus patterned, an inverted quadrangular pyramid hole having a flat bottom is etched anisotropically with an aqueous solution of potassium hydroxide, and then the hard-mask layer 22 is removed with hydrofluoric acid (FIG. 2(b)). In silicon
10 etching with an aqueous solution of potassium hydroxide, an etching rate varies with a crystal orientation. Where a silicon substrate having a crystal orientation (100) is used, an inverted quadrangular pyramid shape is formed as shown in FIG. 2(b) since an etching rate
15 on a (111) crystal plane is relatively slow. In the present preferred embodiment, an etching time is adjusted so that a flat area 50 nm square will be left at the bottom of the hole. Thus, an inverted quadrangular pyramid shape 2750 nm deep, with a flat
20 bottom 50 nm square, is formed. This part is to be used as a mold pattern for fabricating the tip part.

 After removal of the hard-mask layer 22, an insulating layer 23 of silicon nitride having a thickness of 200 nm is formed on the silicon substrate
25 21. Then, at the center of the inverted quadrangular pyramid hole, i.e., at the flat bottom thereof, a cylindrical pit having a diameter of 50 nm is opened by electron beam lithography and reactive ion etching (FIG.

2(c)). While silicon nitride is used to form the insulating layer 23 in the present preferred embodiment, it is also preferable to use a hard insulating material such as silicon dioxide or diamond.

5 After the cylindrical pit having a diameter of 50 nm is opened at the center of the inverted quadrangular pyramid hole, a conductive layer 24 of titanium having a thickness of 250 nm is deposited over the entire surface of the insulating layer 23, and also
10 a part of the conductive layer 24 is embedded into the cylindrical pit having a diameter of 50 nm by evaporation (FIG. 2(d)). While titanium is used to form the conductive layer 24 in the present preferred embodiment, it is also preferable to use such a
15 conductive material as tungsten, molybdenum, chromium, titanium carbide, tungsten carbide, molybdenum carbide, titanium nitride, tungsten nitride, molybdenum nitride, or conductive diamond. Further, while evaporation is performed for embedding a part of the conductive layer
20 24 into the cylindrical pit corresponding to a tip apex to be fabricated in the present preferred embodiment, it is also practicable to perform plating instead of evaporation. Note, however, that a thin film of a metallic material such as gold or copper to be used as
25 an electrode must be provided under the insulating layer 23 when plating is performed.

 After formation of the conductive layer 24, a vending-correction layer 25 of silicon nitride having a

thickness of 200 nm is formed on the conductive layer 24 (FIG. 2(e)). The vending-correction layer 25 serves as a layer for preventing the spring section from warping due to a stress to be applied between the insulating layer 23 and the conductive layer 24 when the substrate 21 is dissolved and removed at the last process step. Depending on materials selected for the insulating layer 23 and the conductive layer 24, a degree of possible warping of the spring section may become insignificant. In this case, it is practicable to skip over the process step of forming the vending-correction layer 25.

After formation of the vending-correction layer 25, the configuration of the spring section, which is formed of the insulating layer 23, conductive layer 24 and vending-correction layer 25 on the silicon substrate 21, and the configuration of a holder joint part are processed by photolithography and reactive ion etching (FIG. 2(f)). Through the process steps shown in FIGS. 2(a) to 2(h), the spring section is configured to have a simple plate spring shape. In this case, a fine cantilever having a rectangular shape 0.01 mm wide and 0.1 mm long can be formed, for example.

After the insulating layer 23, conductive layer 24 and vending-correction layer 25 are arranged to provide a shape of cantilever, a holder 26 is formed at the base of the cantilever (FIG. 2(g)). As the holder 26, a glass part which is 0.3 mm thick, 2 mm wide and 4

mm long is attached to the base of the cantilever, for example. In the present preferred embodiment, anode coupling is used for adhesion between the spring section and the holder 26. Instead, adhesion
5 therebetween may also be made using a photo-active or thermosetting joining material, such as an epoxy adhesive.

After adhesion between the spring section and the holder 26, the silicon substrate 21 is dissolved
10 away with an aqueous solution of potassium hydroxide in the last process step to attain the lithographic scanning probe of the present invention (FIG. 2(h)).

On the right side of FIG. 2(h), there is shown a bottom view of the lithographic scanning probe thus
15 attained (as seen from a surface to be patterned). At the apex part of the lithographic scanning probe, a quadrangular pyramid shape including the insulating layer 23 is provided, and a tip apex formed of the conductive layer 24, just like a lead in a pencil, is
20 provided at the center of the quadrangular pyramid shape.

Referring to FIGS. 3(a) and 3(b), there are shown two examples of cantilever configurations, as seen from a surface to be patterned. FIG. 3(a) shows a
25 simple plate spring type of cantilever having a tip part at its end. FIG. 3(b) shows a cantilever which is formed by cutting out a base part of a triangular plate spring into a trapezoidal shape for decreasing a spring

constant. In this example, a tip part is also formed at the end of the cantilever.

EMBODIMENT II:

5 While the tip part having a quadrangular pyramid shape with a flat apex is formed in the preferred embodiment described above in connection with FIGS. 2(a) to 2(h), it is also preferable to form a tip part having a hemispherical shape. Referring to FIGS. 10 4(a) and 4(b), there are shown a spring section and a tip part formed in a hemispherical shape having a diameter of 4000 nm in another preferred embodiment of a lithographic scanning probe. FIG. 4(a) is a plan view of the lithographic scanning probe according to 15 the present preferred embodiment as seen from a surface to be patterned, and FIG. 4(b) is a sectional view taken on line A-A of FIG. 4(a). For fabricating the hemispherical tip part shown in FIG. 4, a hemispherical hole therefor is formed on the silicon substrate 21. 20 Instead of anisotropic etching with an aqueous solution of potassium hydroxide employed for forming the inverted quadrangular pyramid hole in the EMBODIMENT I, isotropic etching with a mixture solution of hydrofluoric acid, nitric acid and acetic acid is used 25 for forming the hemispherical hole. The other steps of fabrication process in the present preferred embodiment are the same as those shown in FIGS. 2(a) to 2(h).

EMBODIMENT III:

In the present preferred embodiment, there is provided a lithographic scanning probe in which a tip part thereof has a structure different from that in the EMBODIMENT I. The following describes the EMBODIMENT III with particular reference to FIGS. 5(a) to 5(c). In the EMBODIMENT III, the lithographic scanning probe has a three-layer structure comprising a conductive layer, an insulating layer and a vending-correction layer as in the EMBODIMENT I. A holder and a spring section of the lithographic scanning probe in the EMBODIMENT III are structured in the same fashion as in the EMBODIMENT I.

FIG. 5(a) shows a schematic diagram of the tip part in the EMBODIMENT III, as seen from a surface to be patterned, FIG. 5(b) is a sectional view taken on line A-A of FIG. 5(a) in the arrow direction, and FIG. 5(c) is a sectional view taken on line B-B of FIG. 5(a) in the arrow direction.

In the present preferred embodiment, it is assumed that the lithographic scanning probe moves in the direction of line A-A of FIG. 5(a) with respect to a surface to be patterned through scanning. The lithographic scanning probe of the present preferred embodiment comprises a conductor 61, an insulator 62, and a vending-correction layer 63. At the apex of the tip part having a quadrangular pyramid shape, which serves as a drawing point, the conductor 61 is covered

with the insulator 62 in a fashion similar to FIG. 2(h)
(FIG. 5(c)). Unlike the EMBODIMENT I, however, a band
of the conductor 61 is exposed in the direction of
scanning movement of the apex of the quadrangular
pyramid tip part used as a drawing point (it is exposed
in the direction of line A-A). Therefore, in the
present preferred embodiment, the configuration of the
tip apex of the conductor 61 is equivalent to a
rectangle with respect to the direction of scanning
movement of the tip. For example, a rectangle of 50 nm
by 4000 nm is provided in the present preferred
embodiment. According to the present preferred
embodiment in which the configuration of the tip apex
of the conductor 61 is rectangular with respect to the
direction of scanning movement of the tip, in addition
to an advantage that long length drawing is permitted
as in the EMBODIMENT I, there is provided another
advantage that any part of the rectangular face of the
conductor 61 comes into contact with a surface to be
patterned even when the apex of the quadrangular
pyramid tip part is not positioned perpendicularly to a
surface to be patterned due to undulations thereon.
Thus, the operation of patterning can be performed with
higher reliability.

FIG. 6 is a scheme for explaining the
additional advantage mentioned above. Even if a tip
part 71 inclines due to undulations on a surface to be
patterned 73, any tip apex part of a conductor 72 is

section of the lithographic scanning probe in the EMBODIMENT IV are structured in the same fashion as in the EMBODIMENT III. Referring to FIGS. 7(a) to 7(c), there are shown schematic diagrams of the structures of the tip part and the spring section in the present preferred embodiment. FIG. 7(a) is a plan view of the lithographic scanning probe as seen from a surface to be patterned, FIG. 7(b) is a sectional view taken on line A-A of FIG. 7(a) in the arrow direction, and FIG. 7(c) is a sectional view taken on line B-B of FIG. 7(a) in the arrow direction. In the present preferred embodiment, the tip part of the lithographic scanning probe comprises three independent conductors; a first conductor 81, a second conductor 82, and a third conductor 83. Correspondingly, the spring section thereof comprises three independent electrodes; a first electrode 84, a second electrode 85, and a third electrode 86. These conductors and electrodes are covered with an insulator 87 and a vending-correction layer 88.

Unlike the EMBODIMENT III in which the tip part has a single conductor, the present preferred embodiment is characterized in that the tip part comprises a plurality of conductors. Each tip apex of the first conductor 81, the second conductor 82 and the third conductor 83 in the present preferred embodiment has a rectangular shape of 50 nm by 4000 nm with respect to a surface to be patterned, and each

conductor-to-conductor space is 20 nm. Since the tip part comprises a plurality of conductors, the spring section has a plurality of electrodes corresponding to them.

5 In principle, the lithographic scanning probe of the present preferred embodiment is fabricated through the same process steps as those in FIGS. 2(a) to 2(h). For forming the plural conductors in the tip part and the plural electrodes in the spring section, 10 it is required to use a mask prepared therefor at a process step of conductive layer deposition corresponding to FIG. 2(d). Thus, independent insulated conductors and electrodes can be provided.

15 In practice of microstructure patterning, it is possible to draw pattern lines having different widths using a single lithographic scanning probe fabricated according to the present preferred embodiment. More specifically, for drawing a pattern line in a narrow width, one of the first to third conductors 81 to 83 is 20 used. For drawing a pattern line in a wide width, all of the first to third conductors 81 to 83 are used. For drawing a pattern line in a medium width, the first and second conductors or the second and third conductors are used in a pair. As in the EMBODIMENT 25 III, where microstructure patterns are drawn using the lithographic scanning probe of the present preferred embodiment, it will be apparent to those skilled in the art that scanning movement is limited in the direction

perpendicular to the short side of the rectangular shape of the tip apex part of each conductor.

EMBODIMENT V:

5 Referring to FIGS. 8(a) to 8(h), there is shown a lithographic scanning probe fabrication method which is different from that described in connection with FIGS. 2(a) to 2(h). As in the process steps indicated in FIGS. 2(a) and 2(b), on a 0.4mm-thick silicon
10 substrate 91 having a crystal orientation (100), an inverted quadrangular pyramid hole having a flat bottom 50 nm square is made in a depth of 2750 nm (FIG. 8(a)).

Then, on the silicon substrate 91 where the inverted quadrangular pyramid hole has been made as
15 mentioned above, a hydrogenated carbon film 92 having a conductivity of 10 ohms·cm and a thickness of 300 nm is formed by chemical vapor deposition (FIG. 8(b)).

Further, a tungsten film having a thickness of 500 nm is formed as a hard-mask layer on the carbon
20 hydride film 92. Then, by electron beam lithography and reactive ion etching, the hard-mask layer thus formed is processed to leave only a cylindrical hard-mask 93 having a diameter of 50 nm at the center (bottom) of the inverted quadrangular pyramid hole (FIG.
25 8(c)).

After the cylindrical hard-mask 93 having a diameter of 50 nm is formed at the center of the inverted quadrangular pyramid hole, the surface of the

silicon substrate 91 is heated in vacuum at 600°C for a period of 30 minutes by irradiating it with a high-energy X ray beam. In the present preferred embodiment, an X ray energy level is 4 keV, an X ray irradiation density is 1×10^{21} photons/cm²s, and an X ray irradiation time is one hour. As the result of high-energy X ray exposure, only a part located immediately below the hard-mask 93 remains intact as a conductive hydrogenated carbon part in the carbon hydride film 92, and the other parts therein are changed into insulating diamond parts. The conductive hydrogenated carbon part thus preserved intact is provided as a conductor 94, and the insulating diamond parts are provided as an insulator 95 (FIG. 8(d)).

15 After formation of the conductor 94 and the insulator 95, the hard-mask 93 is removed, and an electrode layer 96 of titanium having a thickness of 20 nm is deposited over the insulator 95 (FIG. 8(e)).

After deposition of the electrode layer 96, a
20 cantilever comprising the insulator 95, the conductor
94 and the electrode layer 96 is formed on the silicon
substrate 91 (FIG. 8(f)). The configuration of the
cantilever in the x and y directions is the same as
that in the EMBODIMENT I.

25 After forming the insulator 95, the conductor 94 and the electrode layer 96 into a cantilever shape on the silicon substrate 91, a holder 97 made of glass is secured to a spring section of the cantilever with

an adhesive (FIG. 8(g)).

In the last process step after the holder 97 is secured to the spring section, the silicon substrate 91 is dissolved away with an aqueous solution of potassium hydroxide to attain the lithographic scanning probe of the present preferred embodiment (FIG. 8(h)).

In the present preferred embodiment, since the electrode layer 96 is formed of a titanium film as thin as 20 nm, it is practicable to skip over a process step of forming a vending-correction layer which would otherwise be required.

EMBODIMENT VI:

In the EMBODIMENT VI, there is provided a lithographic scanning probe having a different configuration from those of the lithographic scanning probes described so far. While the spring sections in the foregoing preferred embodiments are of a cantilever type, the present preferred embodiment provides a spring section of a double-end-support type. Referring to FIGS. 9(a) to 9(c), there are shown schematic diagrams of the lithographic scanning probe according to the present preferred embodiment. FIG. 9(a) is a schematic diagram of the lithographic scanning probe as seen from a surface to be patterned, FIG. 9(b) is a sectional view taken on line A-A of FIG. 9(a) in the arrow direction, and FIG. 9(c) is an enlarged view of a tip part indicated in FIG. 9(b). In the present

preferred embodiment, the lithographic scanning probe comprises a spring section 101 and a tip part 102. To attain the spring section 101 to be used as a double-end-support beam, windows 107 and 108 are cut out of a thin sheet 106. Thus, the spring section 101 of a double-end-support type is formed on the center of the thin sheet 106. Similarly to the lithographic scanning probe of a cantilever type described in each of the foregoing preferred embodiments, the tip part and the spring section comprise a conductor 103, an insulator 104 and an insulating layer 105. While one double-end-support beam is indicated in FIGS. 9(a) to 9(c), it will be obvious to those skilled in the art that a plurality of double-end-support beams may be provided in the same fashion.

In general, a spring constant of a double-end-support beam is 64 times as high as a cantilever of the same size. Each spring constant of the double-end-support beam and the cantilever is inversely proportional to the cube of the beam length. It is therefore possible to attain a double-end-support beam having a spring constant equivalent to that of a cantilever of the same size by making the beam length four times longer. In the present preferred embodiment, the beam is 0.01 mm wide and 0.4 mm long.

In an application, the lithographic scanning probe of the present preferred embodiment is applicable in a lithography system such as is disclosed in

Referring to FIG. 11, there is shown a schematic sectional view of the lithographic scanning probe having a conductive layer formed of a carbon nanotube material according to the present preferred embodiment. A lithographic scanning probe 121 of the present preferred embodiment has a three-layer structure comprising a conductor 122, an insulator 123, and a vending-correction layer 124 as in the EMBODIMENT I. The present preferred embodiment is characterized in that a carbon nanotube 125 is used at a tip apex part of the conductor 122 which comes into direct contact with a surface to be patterned. The carbon nanotube 125 can be formed into a conductive tip apex having a uniform diameter of tens of nanometers or less and a length on the order of micrometers, which would be unattainable in the prior art of microstructure fabrication. This arrangement makes it possible to draw a number of nanoscale patterns in succession.

FIGS. 12(a) to 12(c) are schematic diagrams showing process steps of fabricating the lithographic scanning probe according to the present preferred embodiment.

Referring to FIG. 12(a), there is shown a schematic diagram of a commercial probe 131 having a carbon nanotube. The probe 131 comprises a holder 132, a spring section 133, a tip part 134, and a carbon nanotube 135 joined to the apex of the tip part 134. In the present preferred embodiment, an insulating

What is claimed is:

1. A probe for scanning probe lithography,
comprising:

5 a tip part, and a spring section,
wherein said tip part is so structured that a
part of a conductor thereof is covered with an
insulator, and
wherein said conductor is so formed as to have
10 a substantially uniform cross-sectional configuration
perpendicular to a surface to be patterned through
scanning.

2. A probe for scanning probe lithography
15 as claimed in claim 1,
wherein said tip part including said conductor
and said insulator is formed in a quadrangular pyramid
shape having a flat apex at which an apex of said
conductor is exposed.

20 3. A probe for scanning probe lithography
as claimed in claim 1,
wherein said tip part including said conductor
and said insulator is formed in a hemispherical shape
25 with an end of said conductor exposed at the zenithal
point thereof.

4. A probe for scanning probe lithography

as claimed in claim 1,

wherein, in said tip part including said conductor and said insulator, said conductor is formed in a cylindrical shape disposed along the center of said tip part, and the entire periphery of said conductor is covered with said insulator.

5. A probe for scanning probe lithography as claimed in claim 1,

wherein said conductor is formed in a rectangular parallelepiped shape.

6. A probe for scanning probe lithography as claimed in claim 1,

wherein said conductor is made of a hard conductive material selected from the group consisting of titanium, tungsten, molybdenum, titanium carbide, tungsten carbide, molybdenum carbide, graphite, conductive diamond, titanium nitride, tungsten nitride, molybdenum nitride, and carbon nanotube.

7. A probe for lithographic scanning probe as claimed in claim 1,

wherein said insulator is made of a hard insulating material selected from the group consisting of silicon dioxide, silicon nitride, and diamond.

8. A probe for scanning probe lithography

as claimed in claim 1,

wherein a plurality of mutually insulated conductors are provided in said tip part, and

wherein a potential for patterning is fed to
5 one of said plural conductors or a combination thereof
in an application of lithographic processing.

9. A probe of scanning probe lithography
as claimed in claim 1,

10 wherein said spring section is of a cantilever
type or of a double-end-support type.

10. A method of making a probe for scanning probe lithography, comprising the steps of:

15 preparing a silicon substrate having a
predetermined crystal orientation, and opening a
predetermined hole therein;

forming a silicon nitride layer having a predetermined thickness on said substrate;

20 opening, at the center of a hole shape arranged
on said silicon nitride layer, a pit having a
predetermined configuration which extends to said
silicon substrate;

forming a conductive layer having a
25 predetermined thickness on said silicon nitride layer;

forming a vending-correction layer having a predetermined thickness on said conductive layer;

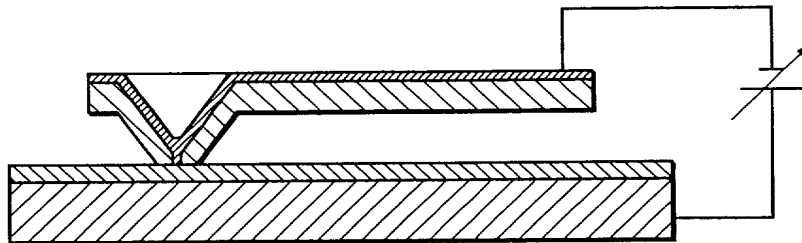
carrying out, after formation of said vending-

- correction layer, configuration processing of a spring section which is formed of said silicon nitride layer, said conductive layer and said vending-correction layer on said silicon substrate, and configuration processing
- 5 of a holder joint part;
- forming said spring section into a predetermined cantilever shape;
- forming a holder at the base of said cantilever shape; and
- 10 removing said silicon substrate from said silicon nitride layer.

09 **08** **07** **06** **05** **04** **03** **02** **01**

5

FIG. 1(b)



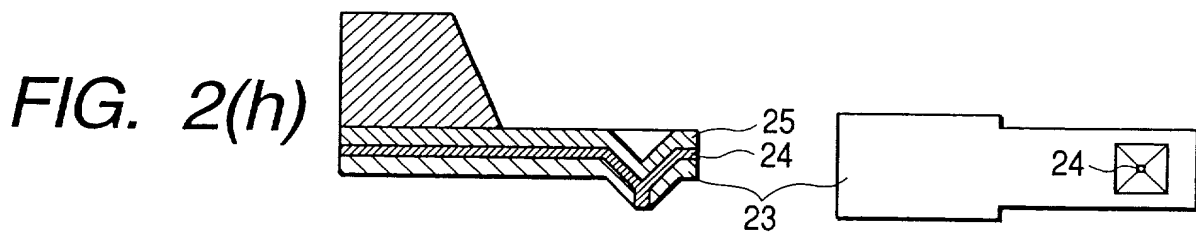


FIG. 3(a)

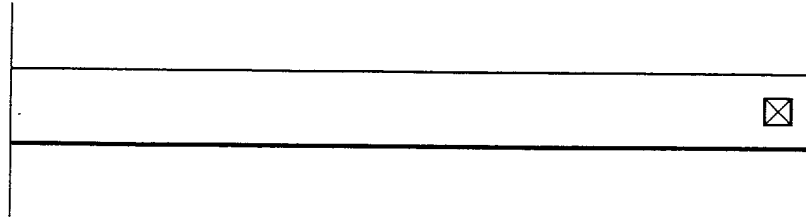


FIG. 3(b)

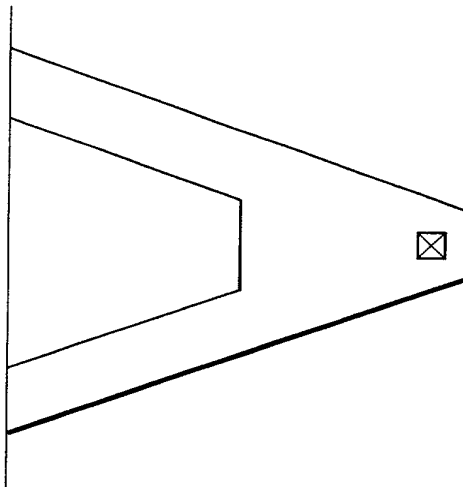


FIG. 4(a)

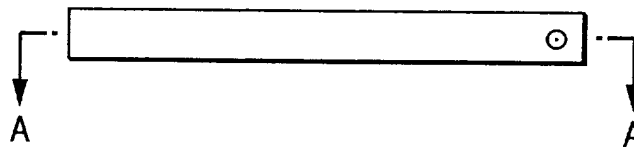


FIG. 4(b)



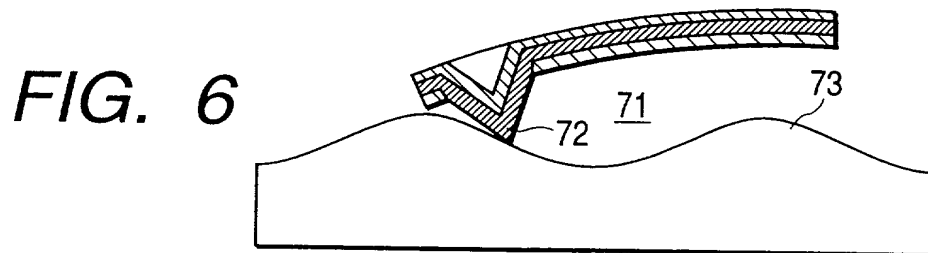
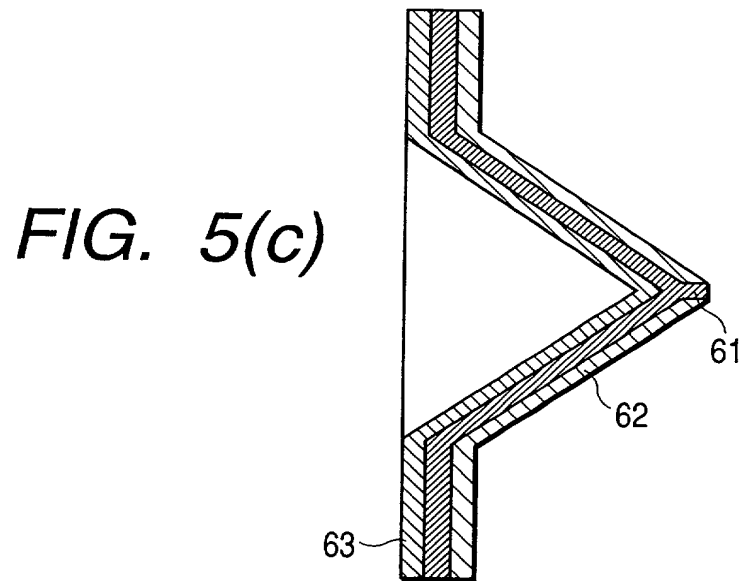
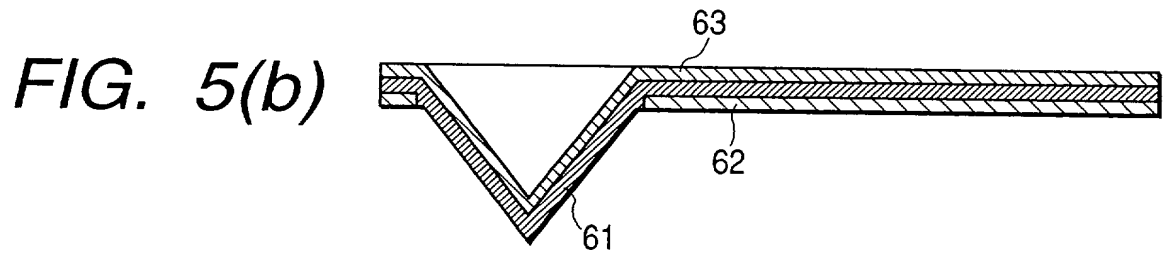
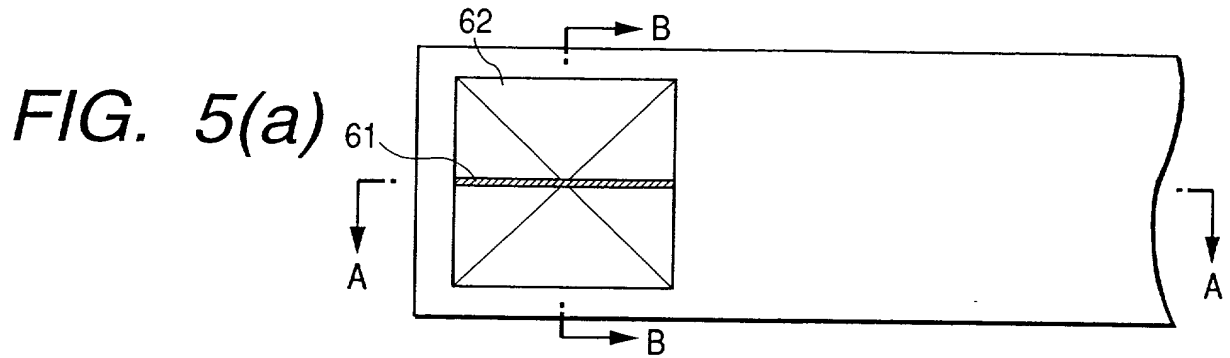


FIG. 7(a)

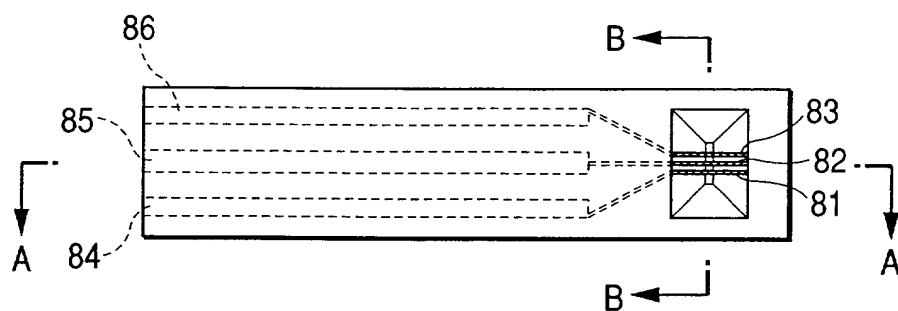


FIG. 7(b)

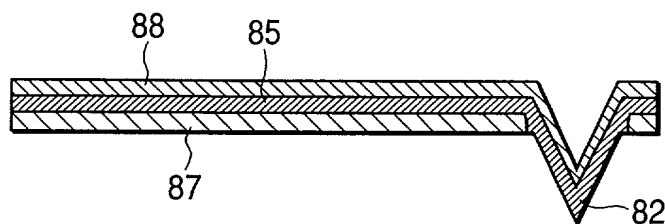


FIG. 7(c)

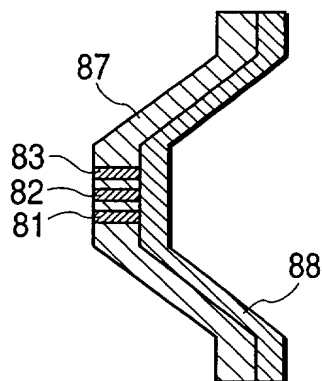


FIG. 8(b)

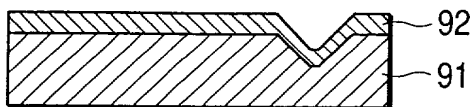


FIG. 8(c)

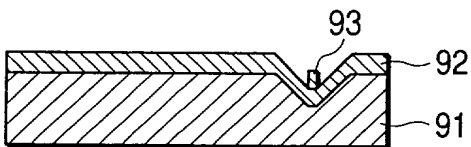


FIG. 8(d)

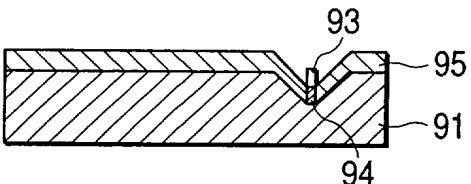


FIG. 8(e)

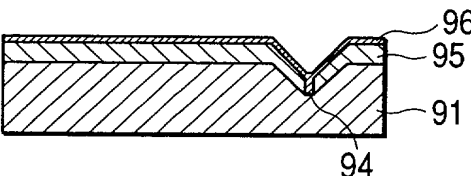


FIG. 8(f)

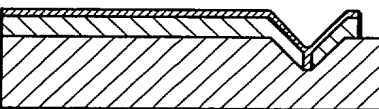


FIG. 8(g)

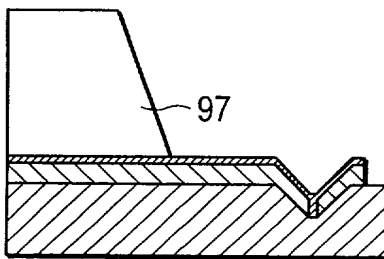


FIG. 8(h)

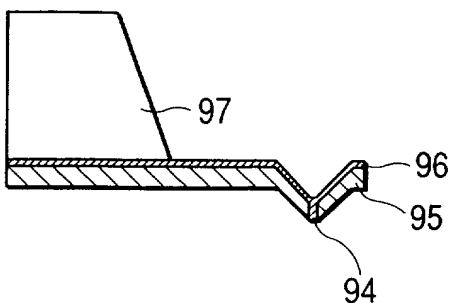


FIG. 9(b)

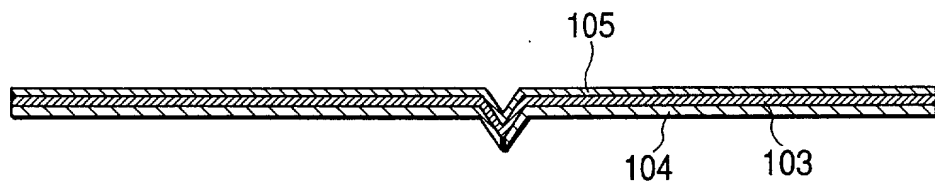


FIG. 10

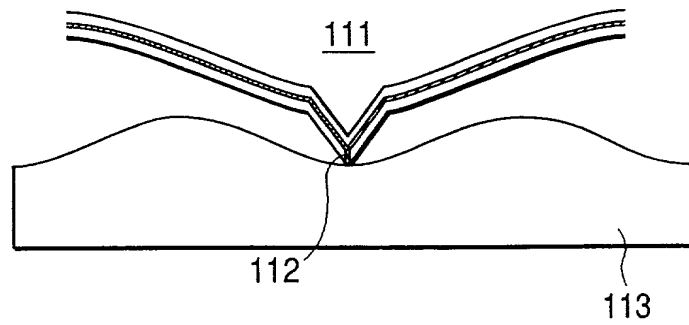


FIG. 11

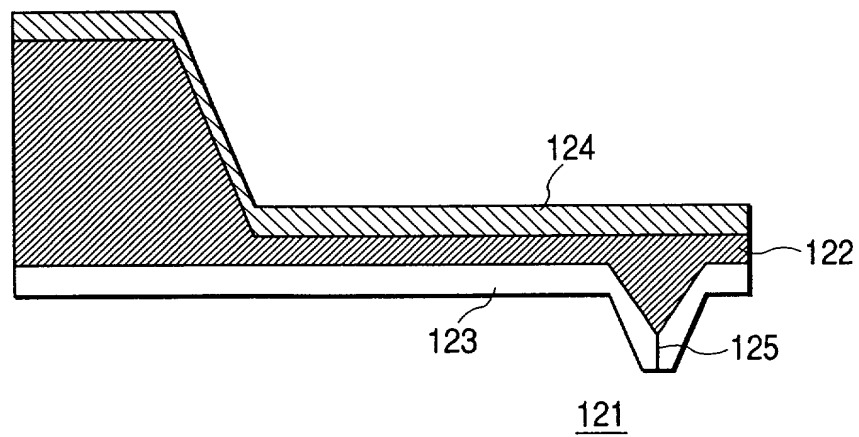


FIG. 12(a)

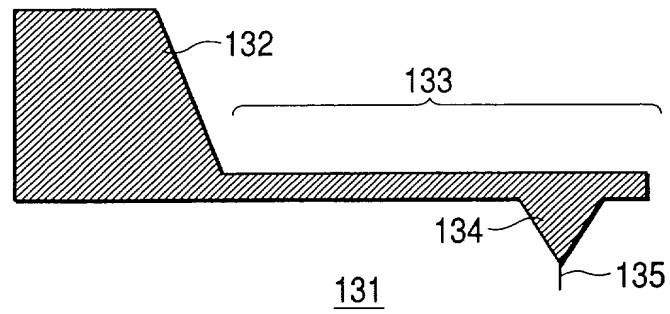


FIG. 12(b)

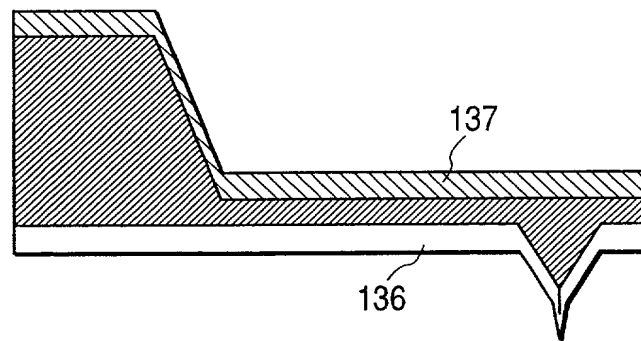
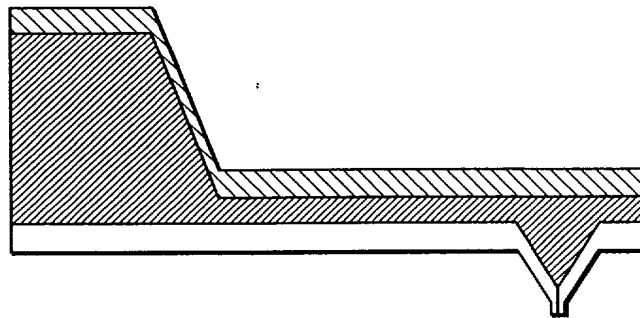


FIG. 12(c)



Declaration and Power of Attorney For Patent Application

特許出願宣言書及び委任状

Japanese Language Declaration

日本語宣言書

下記の氏名の発明者として、私は以下の通り宣言します。

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

私の住所、私書箱、国籍は下記の私の氏名の後に記載された通りです。

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated next to my name.

下記の名称の発明に関して請求範囲に記載され、特許出願している発明内容について、私が最初かつ唯一の発明者（下記の氏名が一つの場合）もしくは最初かつ共同発明者であると（下記の名称が複数の場合）信じています。

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

PROBE FOR SCANNING PROBE LITHOGRAPHY AND

MAKING METHOD THEREOF

上記発明の明細書（下記の欄で×印がついていない場合は、本書に添付）は、

The specification of which is attached hereto unless the following box is checked:

☐ 月 日に提出され、米国出願番号または特許協定条約国際出願番号を _____ とし、
(該当する場合) _____ に訂正されました。

☐ was filed on _____
as United States Application Number or
PCT International Application Number
_____ and was amended on
_____ (if applicable).

私は、特許請求範囲を含む上記訂正後の明細書を検討し、内容を理解していることをここに表明します。

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

私は、連邦規則法典第37編第1条56項に定義されるとおり、特許資格の有無について重要な情報を開示する義務があることを認めます。

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56.

Japanese Language Declaration

(日本語宣言書)

私は、米国法典第35編119条(a)-(d)項又は365条(b)項に基づき下記の、米国以外の国の少なくとも一カ国を指定している特許協力条約365(a)項に基づき国際出願、又は外国での特許出願もしくは発明者証の出願についての外国優先権をここに主張するとともに、優先権を主張している、本出願の前に出願された特許または発明者証の外国出願を以下に、枠内をマークすることで、示しています。

Prior Foreign Application(s)

外国での先行出願

11-241330	Japan
(Number)	(Country)
(番号)	(国名)
(Number)	(Country)
(番号)	(国名)

I hereby claim foreign priority under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119 (a)-(d) or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or 365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Priority Not Claimed

優先権主張なし

27 / August / 1999	<input type="checkbox"/>
(Day/Month/Year Filed)	
(出願年月日)	
(Day/Month/Year Filed)	<input type="checkbox"/>
(出願年月日)	

私は、第35編米国法典119条(e)項に基づいて下記の米国特許出願規定に記載された権利をここに主張いたします。

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

(Application No.)	(Filing Date)
(出願番号)	(出願日)

(Application No.)	(Filing Date)
(出願番号)	(出願日)

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(Application No.)	(Filing Date)
(出願番号)	(出願日)

(Status: Patented, Pending, Abandoned)
(現況: 特許許可済、係属中、放棄済)

(Application No.)	(Filing Date)
(出願番号)	(出願日)

(Status: Patented, Pending, Abandoned)
(現況: 特許許可済、係属中、放棄済)

私は、私自身の知識に基づいて本宣言書で私が行なう表明が真実であり、かつ私の入手した情報と私の信じていること、さらに故意になされた虚偽の表明及びそれと同等の行為は米国法典第18編1001条に基づき、罰金または拘禁、もしくはその両方により処罰されること、そしてそのような故意による虚偽の声明を行えば、出願した、又は既に許可された特許の有効性が失われることを認識し、よってここに上記のごとく宣誓を致します。

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number

Japanese Language Declaration (日本語宣言書)

委任状： 私は下記の発明者として、本出願に関する一切の手続きを米特許商標局に対して遂行する弁理士または代理人として、下記の者を指名いたします。(弁護士、または代理人の氏名及び登録番号を明記のこと)

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith (*list name and registration number*)

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John R. Mattingly, Reg. No.30,293;
Daniel J. Stanger, Reg. No.32,846;
Shrinath Malur, Reg. No.34,663;
Gene W. Stockman, Reg. No.21,021;
Jeffrey M. Ketchum, Reg. No.31,174;
Scott W. Brickner, Reg.No.34553;

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発明者の署名	日付	Inventor's signature Date <i>Masayoshi Ishibashi</i> 5/8/2000
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国籍	Citizenship Japan	
私書箱	Post Office Address c/o Hitachi, Ltd., Intellectual Property Group New Marunouchi Bldg. 5-1, Marunouchi 1-chome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8220, Japan	

(第二以降の共同発明者についても同様に記載し、署名をすること)

(Supply similar information and signature for second and subsequent joint inventors.)

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第二共同発明者の署名	日付	Second inventor's signature Date 5/11/2000 Tomihiko Hashizume.
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国籍	Citizenship Japan	
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第三共同発明者名	Full name of third joint inventor, if any Hiroshi KAJIYAMA	
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住所	Residence Hitachi, Japan	
国籍	Citizenship Japan	
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第四共同発明者名	Full name of fourth joint inventor, if any	
第四共同発明者の署名	日付	Fourth inventor's signature Date
住所	Residence	
国籍	Citizenship	
私書箱	Post Office Address	
第五共同発明者名	Full name of fifth joint inventor, if any	
第五共同発明者の署名	日付	Fifth inventor's signature Date
住所	Residence	
国籍	Citizenship	
私書箱	Post Office Address	